

LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE

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of Government.

THE FILIPINOS SURPRISED

They Were Ignorant of True Condition of Affairs at Manila—Inundated With Invitations—Conditions in the Northern Province—Filipino Army Demoralized and Short of Arms and Supplies—Spanish Garrison Held at Zamboanga—General Otis' Official Report.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Manila, May 22.—3:15 p. m.—Prof. Schurman, head of the United States Philippine commission, has submitted the following written propositions to the Filipinos:

"While the final decision as to the form of government is in the hands of Congress, the President, under his military powers, pending the action of Congress, stands ready to offer the following form of government:

"1. A governor general, to be appointed by the President; a cabinet, to be appointed by the governor general; all the judges, to be appointed by the President; the heads of departments and judges, to either be Americans or Filipinos, or both; and also a general advisory council, its members to be chosen by the people by a form of suffrage to be hereafter carefully determined upon.

"The President earnestly desires that bloodshed cease, and that the people of the Philippines, at an early date, enjoy the largest measure of self-government compatible with peace and order."

The United States commission prepared the scheme and the President called his approval of the form of the document.

THE FILIPINO PROPOSITION.

The Filipinos have made no definite proposition, except for a cessation of hostilities until they can present the question of peace to the people. Prof. Schurman told the Filipinos they had no means of gathering the people together, as the Americans control most of the ports. He also reminded them that a liberal form of government was offered them, and pointed out that it was better than the conditions existing under Spanish rule.

LIBERALITY ADMITTED.

Gonzaga, president of the Philippine commission, replied that nothing could be worse than Spanish rule, and admitted that the form of government proposed was liberal.

AGUINALDO'S DEMAND PREPOSTEROUS.

The civilian members of the Filipino commission have declined to co-operate with the other members of that commission, on the former consider Aguinaldo's demand to be preposterous, and have referred to his wish for independence as a wish for consultation with the Filipino people.

WILL VISIT OUR FLEET.

A conference to-morrow with the United States commission, the Philippine commissioners will lunch with the Schurman, and will afterwards visit the vessels comprising the American fleet.

THE COMMISSIONERS' SURPRISE.

Manila, May 22.—2:15 p. m.—In spite of the presence of the Filipino commissioners in Manila, the military operations continue with unabated vigor.

The visitors were apparently ignorant of the true condition of affairs here. Upon their arrival they were immediately inundated with invitations covering both day and night, and express surprise at the condition of affairs within our lines. They had been led to believe that everything was chaotic, and are delighted at the reception accorded them.

DESIROUS OF JOINING AMERICANS.

Reports received from persons who have arrived from the interior show that no troops are left in the northern province. They were all drafted south after the outbreak of the war. The villages on the west coast are almost deserted, and the Ilocanos, especially, are desirous of joining the Americans, if only for the purpose of crushing the Tagalos. Many natives of Benguet and Ilocos said that if the Americans had not arrived civil war would necessarily have ensued, owing to friction between the Tagalos and the inhabitants of other provinces.

FILIPINO ARMY DEMORALIZED.

It is added that the only Filipino troops now left are 7,000 men under Generals Luna and Talarin, and about 4,000 under General Pio del Pilar. Even these are demoralized and short of arms and supplies. Many of their ranks are disabled and the Filipinos are unable to repair them, owing to the lack of mechanics and materials for so doing.

SPANIARDS AT ZAMBOANGA.

A coasting steamer which has arrived here reports that the Spanish garrison at Zamboanga, Island of Mindanao, is held by the rebels in much the same manner as the Americans held them while they were in the vicinity of Manila. Every night the Spaniards are subjected to an ineffectual fusillade, and if they are not soon relieved they will be reduced to the condition of the Spanish garrison at Iloilo just previous to its evacuation of that place.

GEN. OTIS' REPORT.

Washington, May 22.—The War De-

partment has received the following from General Otis:

Manila, May 22.

Adjutant General, Washington:

Conditions as follows: In Bulacan province, troops maintained a Quingua, Baling, San Miguel, Lawton proceeding down Rio Grande from San Isidro; has driven enemy westward from San Antonio, Cariao and Arayat, where he was joined yesterday by Kobbe's column; will reach Santa Ana and Candaba to-day. MacArthur still at San Fernando and will occupy cities south and westward; insurgent forces disintegrating daily. Luna's force at Tarlac much diminished; has destroyed several miles railway in his front; number of officers of rank have deserted Luna and few have entered Manila for protection; in Pampanga and Bulacan inhabitants returning to homes only four hundred troops south of Manila; insurgent disintegration progressing, though large force still maintained; conditions improving daily; send battalion troops and gunboat to Negros to-morrow to ally excitement in southern portion of island and west coast of Cebu. Have denied request of Aguinaldo's commissioners for armistice.

OTIS FOR GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Washington, May 22.—The report from Manila that a form of government had been proposed to the Filipinos, including a general council and advisory council, is confirmed at the State Department. The plan is the outgrowth of numerous cable and mail exchanges between President Schurman, of the Philippine Commission, and Secretary Hay, as well as advice from General Otis and Admiral Dewey. Like the Cuban system, the administration would be military in character for the time being at least, while conditions were unsettled. The authorities here are acting on the theory that, as in the case of Porto Rico, it will be for Congress to establish the permanent form of government for the islands. It was understood at the time Major General Lawton went to Manila that General Otis would become governor general, while General Lawton assumed active direction of military affairs. It is not improbable that this plan might be carried out if the Filipinos accept the plan now proposed.

RICHMOND WINS.

FAVORABLE DECISION IN SUIT OF TELEPHONE COMPANY.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, May 22.—In the United States Supreme Court an opinion was rendered to-day in the case of the city of Richmond, Va., vs. the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. The controversy involved the right of the telephone company to locate poles and wires in the streets and alleys of the city regardless of the protest of the local municipal authorities, the claim of the telephone company being made under the act of Congress of 1896 granting such right generally to telephone companies.

The decision was favorable to the contention of the city and adverse to the telephone company, the court holding that the concession to telephone companies could not be made to include telephone companies.

The opinion was handed down by Justice Harlan.

The Congressional act involved is that granting right of way to telephone companies along any military or post road of the United States. The telephone company claimed the right under this act to locate and operate its lines on any of the streets of the city in question to the municipal authorities. The Circuit Court accepted this view, but the Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the opinion, holding that the right under the act was subordinate to public use and private rights.

Justice Harlan said, both opinions being concurred in, that the act in the interest of telephone companies did not include telephone companies.

"It may be," he said, "that the public policy intended to promote by that act would suggest the granting of telephone companies of the rights and privileges accorded to telephone companies, and it may be that if the telephone had been known and in use when the act of 1896 was passed, Congress would have embraced in its provisions companies employing instruments for electrically transmitting articulate speech. But the question is not what Congress might have done in 1896, nor what it ought now to do, but what was in its mind when enacting the statute in question."

He concluded by saying:

"If Congress desires to extend the provisions of the act of 1896 to telephone companies let it do so in plain words. It will be time enough when such legislation is enacted to consider any questions of constitutional law that may be suggested by it."

CONFEDERATE ARCHIVES.

SUPREME COURT RAISES A DECISION UPON THEM.

Washington, May 22.—In deciding the claim of Sarah A. Oakes against the United States for a vessel taken by the Confederate Government during the war of the rebellion, the Supreme Court of the United States to-day held that the archives of the Confederate Government constitute competent testimony. These archives showed that the vessel in question was purchased by the Confederate Government.

"These archives," said Justice Gray in deciding the case, "are not the highest authority, but they are records made by men of high standing, and deserve credence."

The decision was accordingly against the claim.

Shot For Disobeying Orders.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Va., May 22.—Sunday afternoon at Chase City, Walter Wagstaff, a young married merchant of that place, shot James Hayes, aged 21 years, in the neck, inflicting a fatal wound, perhaps. Wagstaff had forbidden Hayes to visit his house, but the latter disregarded the warning. The shooting took place in Wagstaff's front yard.

A DEMOCRATIC
CONFERENCENational Committee Called to
Meet Thursday.

MISSOURI DEMOCRACY

The Jefferson Club of St. Louis, has invited fifteen hundred Democrats, including Mr. Bryan and other leaders, to a dinner-party affairs will be discussed and future work arranged.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Milwaukee, Wis., May 22.—Edward C. Wall, National Democratic Committeeman of Wisconsin, to-day made public the call for a conference of the members of the National Democratic Committee at St. Louis on May 25. While the announcement of the call was published some time ago, the full text is printed to-day for the first time.

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR, HIS ENGLISH HOME AND HIS
ATTACK UPON AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

In America my great-grandfather's life and character have been distorted and expurgated until only an odd travesty survives. By the press in particular, with the exception of a few serious journals, he has been continually degraded and reviled with that spirit of pure malignity which pursues the successful man. It is not democratic to climb so high.

The value of such criticism may be estimated by what transatlantic newspapers say of one another in the heat of their occasional rivalries. At such times each can be trusted to tell the unvarnished truth about the other, and it is not infrequently made to appear that there exists no ampler copiousness of meanness and vulgarity, no grosser exhibition of ignorance, no coarser profanation of private life, of modesty, of the defenseless or of domestic sorrow, than fills the columns of these lepers white as snow.

And yet such is the infirmity of our nature that it is difficult for an individual to disregard the depressing influence of an habitual atmosphere of personal abuse. I remember when a lad hearing my father say of some of the most virulent of these attacks, "It is enough to make one wish to abandon such a country!" an opinion I subsequently learned to share.—William Waldorf Astor in Pall Mall Magazine.

The call, dated at St. Louis, was issued on May 4 and is signed by W. J. Stoen and J. G. Johnson, the former having been designated as acting chairman of the National Committee by Chairman Jones before his departure for Europe. In part the letter to the National Committeemen reads:

"We believe the members of the National Committee should meet at an early day for conference with a view to reaching some understanding as to future operations. We have no authority, of course, to assemble the committee in a regular meeting, but we have thought it would be proper and wise to write to members of the committee individually and suggest an informal conference. It so happens that the Jefferson Club of St. Louis, representing the Missouri Democracy, will give a dinner in this city on May 25 to which some 1,500 persons will be invited. Mr. Bryan and other leading men of the party will attend this dinner, and formal invitations will be sent to each member of the National Committee. As St. Louis is a central and convenient point we have concluded to write members of the committee and invite them to meet us here on the morning of the 25th instant, at the Planters' House, where we can spend the day in discussing party affairs and arrange our future work. There are a number of important matters which ought to receive the attention of the committee, and we believe great good would result from such a conference as we propose."

Admiral Schley Holds Reception.

Omaha, May 22.—Omaha society people paid their respects to Admiral W. S. Schley and Mrs. Schley at the Omaha Club to-night.

THE PEACE
CONFERENCEMany Difficulties are Confronting
the Delegates.

ENEMIES ARE AT WORK

Persons hostile to aims of conference have been busily engaged in spreading distrust—Ambassador White hopes that it will be possible to reach practical conclusions—Emperor William's words help situation.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

The Hague, May 22.—The disarmament committee of the Peace Conference will meet at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the committee on the laws of warfare meets during the afternoon of the same day, and the committee on arbitration meets on Wednesday.

the reduction of armaments, I am not in a position to speak on the subject." PROTRACTED SESSION LIKELY.

Other Ambassadors interviewed expressed similar views. They seemed convinced, however, that numerous difficulties of detail would arise in the various committees, and that the conference would be protracted.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

INVOLVING GUARANTEED BONDS
OF RAILWAY COMPANY.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, D. C., May 22.—The United States Supreme Court to-day decided the case of the Louisville Trust Company vs. the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railway Company and others. The case involves the contention over the guarantee given by this railway company bonds of a Kentucky railroad company, amounting to \$1,155,000. This guarantee the New Albany sought to have declared void, and much litigation ensued. The opinion in the case was prepared by Justice Brewer and found the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit to be in error in that it failed to protect the interests of certain of the creditors, the court saying that while not intended any displacement of the ordinary rules or rights of mortgages and mortgages in a foreclosure, they believed that under the circumstances, as presented by this record, there was error, and that the decision, which was in favor of the railroad company, in the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, should be reversed. This order was made to remand to the Circuit Court with instructions to set aside the confirmation of sale and to inquire whether it is true, as alleged, that the foreclosure proceedings were made in pursuance of an agreement between the bondholder and stockholder to preserve the rights of both and destroy the interests of unsecured creditors, and that if it shall appear that such was the agreement between the parties to refuse to permit the confirmation of sale until the interests of unsecured creditors have been preserved.

THE GERMAN BAPTISTS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE
AT ROANOKE.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Roanoke, Va., May 22.—The German Baptists opened their business session to-day with a large attendance of the brethren. The great tabernacle was filled with the members of the conference. The following program was taken up and followed:

"Our Sunday School Forces," by Rev. W. R. Decker, of Indiana; "Preserving the Identity of the Church Through the Sunday School," by Rev. L. A. Bookwalter, of Ohio; "Our Present Sunday School Boards," by Mrs. George B. Holsinger, of Virginia; "Educational Principles in the Sunday School," by Prof. M. G. Braumbaugh, of the University of Pennsylvania.

The afternoon was taken up in a discussion of missions, which was led off by G. E. Royer, of Illinois. "What Mission Work Has Done for Us at Home and Abroad" was considered by Isaac Frantz, of Ohio; "The Faithful Missionary's Reward," by Rev. A. Hutchinson, of Kansas; "Giving for Mission Purposes," by Rev. J. N. H. Beaman, of Virginia.

After an address on the subject a collection was made, after which the business session closed for the day.

THE PARIS AGROUND.

STRUCK ON A ROCK OFF LOW-
LAND'S POINT.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Covington, May 22.—The situation of the American line steamer Paris, Captain Watkins, which went aground early yesterday morning just off Lowland's Point remains unchanged. The weather is fine and clear, the sea smooth and a light off-shore breeze is blowing and everything is favorable for salvaging operations.

Her cargo is being rapidly discharged. Salvage tugs from Liverpool will arrive at the scene of the wreck to-night.

It is believed the next attempt to float the Paris will be made on Wednesday. Everything at present seems favorable to success.

The North German Lloyd steamer Bremen arrived at Baltimore this morning under instructions to embark for New York the passengers of the Paris. But the passengers are not ready to proceed on their voyage, many of them still suffering from shock, so the Bremen continued on her passage westward.

Many of the passengers of the Paris took the train for Southampton this morning where they will await the sailing of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, which is scheduled to sail from Bremen for New York on May 23.

REPORT NOT CREDITED.

CRUISER DETROIT HASN'T SUNK
NICARAGUAN VESSEL.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Colon, Columbia, May 22, via Galveston.—A passenger who arrived here from Bocas del Toro, is alone responsible for the rumor that the Nicaraguan gun vessel San Jacinto, has been sunk by the United States ship "Detroit," after the former had fired upon the American warship. He says the report was generally discredited at Bocas del Toro, and that it probably came from Bluefields, where the Detroit and San Jacinto are supposed to be.

The officials of the American consulate here are without news of any such event as the sinking of the San Jacinto by the Detroit.

NO REPORT RECEIVED.

Washington, May 22.—The Navy Department has had no report from the Captain of the Detroit of any difficulty with the Nicaraguan officials or of any collision with the Nicaraguan gunboat San Jacinto. The officials of the Navigation Bureau express their disbelief in the report of a conflict between the Detroit and this gunboat.

THE CUBAN
ARMS QUESTIONThe Payment and Dispersal of
Armed Bands.

WILL BEGIN SATURDAY

Generals Brooke and Gomez Reach an Understanding—Arms to Be Turned Over to Civil Governors or Alcaldes of Municipalities—Cubans Disperse Taking Arms and Resolved Not to Accept Money of United States—Tone of Cuban Press.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Havana, May 22.—The Cuban arms question is apparently nearing a complete and rapid settlement. The payment and dispersal of half the armed bands that have been voluntarily or involuntarily quartered on the country will begin, according to the present program, next Saturday in this city.

To-day Governor General Brooke and General Maximo Gomez had what both consider a final interview on the question of surrendering the arms. The payment order was signed by the Governor General on Saturday, but not published.

TEXT OF AGREEMENT.

At the end of two hours and a half devoted to its examination, General Gomez said he was entirely satisfied and felt convinced that the order met all the objections which had been raised. The text of the article disposing of the arms is as follows:

"The arms and equipments of the Cuban soldiers will be turned over to the civil governors or to the alcaldes of municipalities, either at the place of residence of the soldiers or at the place of payment, to the United States officers in charge. Said civil governors and alcaldes are hereby charged with the proper storage and care of the same until they can be collected for storage in Cuban arsenals at Havana and Santiago, as already arranged.

"Receipts will be given to soldiers for arms turned in, and civil governors and alcaldes will forward to headquarters a report of the number of arms in their charge. Where five hundred arms are stored in one place an ex-Cuban soldier will be employed as an armorer and shall be paid for his services by the general government. The name of such person shall be sent to headquarters to be placed on the rolls for the proper and prompt payment for his services."

A FORCE DISBANDED.

Colonel Azen, who was at one time a member of the staff of the late General Antonio Maceo, to-day disbanded his force of three hundred men, who had been stationed near Alajuela, province of Pinar del Rio, the men going quietly to their homes with their arms, resolved neither to accept the money of the United States, nor to wait longer in a condition of suspense. A meeting of the Cuban chiefs in the Occident, or western provinces, has been called to consider the situation, and will probably decide to adopt the same course.

SANGUILLY'S STATEMENT.

General Julio Sanguilly said to-day: "Our officers and men realize the impossibility of resisting the Americans if a resort to force should be had, but they earnestly wish to retain the arms which are rightfully theirs, and it will be a source of animosity if they are not allowed to do so."

THE CUBAN PRESS.

La Discusion, in a spirited editorial, urges emulation of the example of the Cubans in the Orient, and reprints the dispatch of the veterans of Santiago to General Mayia Rodriguez, announcing that there is no longer an organized army in the Orient and declaring their determination to refuse American money.

"The Spanish-Lucha," says: "The rifle represents to each soldier much more than dollars, and it is not hard to prophesy that those in the Cuban soldiers will imitate those in the eastern provinces. We are now standing over a trouble which, sooner or later will break out, if the Americans prohibit the use of all arms, as they have already stopped the importation."

The English-Lucha, in an editorial, pointing out the impossibility of war, says: "Cubans are too intelligent not to realize the rashness of such a proceeding. It would simply bring ruin; and they do not wish to have the world think that they want war."

It is now believed that the disease which attacked the Canary Islander who recently arrived here, and which was thought to be yellow fever, is only pernicious malaria.

Cigar Leaf Dealers Organize.

Philadelphia, May 22.—An organization to be known as the Cigar Leaf Tobacco Board of Trade of the United States was organized here to-day.

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